

**Town
Hall Forum**
April 8, 2006, 1 pm
Firstenberg Community Center

Legislative

ACTION

Session 2006 Wrap-up



**State Representative
Deb Wallace**
17th Legislative District



What's inside?

Successes in 2006

*Clark County jobs, improving
driver education, small business support*

Keeping Kids and Communities Safe

from Sex Offenders, Meth Cooks, and Frauds

Budget Accountability

What We Buy & What We Save

Energy Freedom

Making fuel in Washington

Educating our children for the 21st century

Affordable Health Care

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Representative Deb Wallace

A Note from Rep. Wallace

Dear Neighbors,
Thank you for taking time to read this update on my work representing you in the 2006 session. If you have any questions or comments about the session, please contact me. Your involvement is crucial to good government in our state! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Deb Wallace
State Representative

tor industry in facilities located in Washington State. This is estimated to result in 250-300 new jobs here in Clark County with an average salary of \$48,000 per year. Learn more at: **hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/2006**

Small business services grants:

Many small business owners and operators take advantage of services, such as technical or marketing support, provided by nonprofits. I sponsored House Bill 1815 to expand a grant program to those providers of key small business services. Washington State is #1 in small business start-ups, but also #2 in start-up failures. I'm working to do more to support our new small businesses, the backbone of our economy.

Making government work better:

Continuing my work to encourage efficient government and cut through the red tape, the Governor supported two programs that I requested to make our state government work better. Permit Streamlining Implementation and the



Keeping Kids Safe

We cracked down on sex offenders with strong, bipartisan laws to increase sentences for heinous predators who attack children and vulnerable adults, protect victims and increase monitoring of sex offenders who still present a threat.

development of a Wetland Mitigation Bank in Clark County are designed to save money and provide certainty in the development of homes and businesses.

Looking to the Future

For the remainder of 2006, I plan to work on:

Credit freeze: People who suspect they are possible victims of identity theft—for example, someone who lost a wallet—should be allowed to ask for a credit freeze. I sponsored this common-sense consumer protection bill and it deserves to be state law.

Property tax relief: One of the largest expenses facing families is property tax. With the value of homes rising we need to look at more ways to get property tax relief to families.

Education: Develop education policy resulting from the Washington Learns effort and focus on education/community partnerships.

Successes in 2006

Fighting meth cooks: I worked with detectives and other police to restrict the sale of concentrated iodine and a nutritional supplement—both used in meth manufacture. My bill (House Bill 2567) was signed by the governor and will help law enforcement to combat meth manufacturers and dealers. Learn more at: **hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/2006**

Quality driver training: Teens taking driver education need a quality program. I sponsored House Bill 2829 to improve student training and restore the confidence in privately-run driver training schools and instructors. The bill, which has broad support, was signed into law. Learn more at: **hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace/2006**

Jobs in the semiconductor industry: Clark County is the hub of our state's semiconductor industry, with over 2,000 employees in our county. I sponsored House Bill 3190, which passed, to levy \$1 million in tax incentives triggered by a \$350 million investment by the semiconduc-



Budget investment and accountability

In 2006, we were fortunate to have a positive budget forecast: \$1.57 billion. We examined the state's future costs from increased school enrollment, rising health care costs, and pension demands, and prudently put over \$935 million into savings accounts for those costs. We also invested in schools, health care for kids and seniors, renewable energy projects, community security from sex offenders, possible pandemic flu outbreaks, and much more.

What We Buy

- ✓ Increased health care for kids: Last session, we committed to universal health care for all Washington children by 2010. To stay on target, we provide health care to 73,000 previously uninsured children.
- ✓ More enrollments for high-demand fields (nursing, engineering, math, and science) at universities.
- ✓ State funding for emergency pandemic flu preparation.
- ✓ Energy Freedom: low-interest loans and grants for renewable energy projects around the state, and support for biodiesel and ethanol plants.
- ✓ Increased health care coverage for seniors and families to fill the gap of federal cutbacks.
- ✓ Putting more sex offenders behind bars and better monitoring of currently released offenders.
- ✓ Veterans' Innovation Program to provide crisis and emergency relief resources for veterans who are returning from recent military action, and grant opportunities for education, training and employment.

What We Save

- ✓ Two dollars saved for every dollar invested—adding up to over \$935 million in rainy day savings to cover future costs in education, health care and pensions, as well as a left over balance.



A girl enjoying time at the new Firstenburg Center

Energy Freedom

Alternatives to foreign oil in Washington

Energy—for our cars, trucks, home heating, and power needs—keeps our economy moving. As a state we can begin the path to energy freedom through biofuels—biodiesel and ethanol—from local crops and agricultural wastes. They reduce our dependence on petroleum and imported oil, cut air pollution, and strengthen our farm industry and rural communities. I supported market access to biofuels and low-interest loans and grants for biofuel energy projects around the state.

Education: Great students, good schools

I strongly believe we should set high standards for our children—so they can meet global challenges in the 21st century. In turn, they deserve the best support and a fair chance to meet those

standards. We will keep the WASL test as a requirement, and this year we helped students through after-school tutoring, testing alternatives, student-centered planning and summer school.

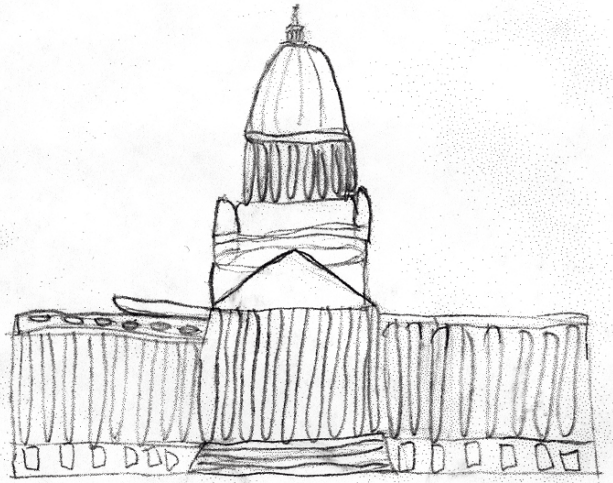
Affordable Health Care

I supported several smart ways to improve health care access and affordability in Washington State. We passed patient safety improvements, preserved access to community-based assisted living services for

low-income seniors, took measures to reduce medical malpractice insurance premiums, and gave a fair deal to individual home care providers.



Washington residents spend \$25 million a day for gasoline and diesel fuel. The United States currently imports 63% its petroleum, making us dependent on unstable foreign providers.



**The
State
Capital**
*by Erin,
8 years old*

Get involved!

In the next months, I encourage everyone to take action and get involved with important issues for Clark County communities, families and our state. Please write, e-mail or call me with your opinions on topics such as the WASL and student achievement, energy freedom, health care, transportation, and job creation.

Call: 360.260.6110 or toll-free hotline to Olympia: 1.800.562.6000

E-mail: Wallace.Deb@leg.wa.gov

Email is a great way to reach me and I love hearing from you!

Visit my website—with my blog, podcast, community resources—at your fingertips: <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace>

(Note: Due to the election year, much of the website content will not be available from June 30 to December 1.)

Community Action Forum

**Strengthening
Community
Partnerships
and Education**

**Coming
in early May!**

**Contact me or
watch the paper for
time and location.**

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**Legislative
ACTION Alert**

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TOWN HALL:
Saturday, April 8
1 pm
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Center**